demand etc. Contracts for total of 13 small fields have been signed with the private companies for development and production.

Criteria for allotment of gas agency

4084. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria fixed by Government for selecting locality and dealer for allotment of gas agency, alongwith the composition of Oil Selection Board for Assam;

(b) the details of the localities identified, so far, in Assam for sanction of new gas agency; and

(c) the details of gas agency sanctioned in the state during the last three years and proposed to be sanctioned in the current financial year, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Oil companies conduct market surveys to identify economically viable locations in the urban, urban/rural and rural areas for inclusion in the LPG Marketing Plans. As per existing policy, oil companies advertise the locations included in the approved Marketing Plans under different reserved categories in two newspapers, one in English daily and one in vernacular daily, and invite applications from the candidates meeting the eligibility criteria relating to nationality, age, educational qualification, residence, income, multiple dealership norms, etc. Selection of the eligible candidates is made by the duly constituted Dealer Selection Boards. Reservation for different categories have been provided as under:—

Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes	(SC/ST)-25%
Physically Handicapped Persons (PH)	-5%
Paramilitary/Police/Govt. Personnel (PMP)	-8%
Defence Personnel (DC)	-8%
Freedom Fighters (FF)	-2%
Outstanding Sportspersons(OSP)	-2%
Open (O)	-50%

Also, 33% of the dealerships/ distributorships in all the categories mentioned above are reserved for Women belonging to that category. Other things being equal Unmarried women above 40 years of age without earning parents and Widows are given priority over others.

As per exisiting policy, selection will be made by a duly constituted Dealer Selection Board consisting of:

(1) a retired judge of a High Court —Chairman

(2) an officer not below the rank of Dy. General manager of the Concerned oil company. —Member

(3) an officer not below the rank of Dy. General Manager of another Oil Company. —Member

(b) and (c) During the last three years (*i.e.* 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98) 27 LPG distributorships have been commissioned in Assam. In addition to the locations pending from the previous Marketing Plans, 38 LPG distributorships have been included in the LPG marketing Plan 1996—98 for Assam. Actual number of distributorships to be opened will depend on various factors such as number of interviews conduted by Dealer Selection Board (Assam), availability of land, etc. It generally takes about 1-2 years for commissioning of the dealership/distributorship from the date of advertisement.

कांगड़ा जिले में रसोई गैस की आपूर्ति

4085. **श्री सूर्यभान पाटील वहाडणे:** क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) कांगड़ा जिले की उन पंचायतों के नाम क्या-क्या है जहां पर निगम की गैस एजेंसी द्वारा रसोई गैस की आपूर्ति की जाती है;

(ख) ऐसे गांवों की संख्या कितनी है जो मेन रोड या मोटरेबल रोड से 500 से 1000 गज की दूरी पर स्थित हैं तथा इन गांवों में दिये गये कनेक्शनों का ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) क्या सरकार इन गांवों में भी सिलिण्डरों की होम डिलीवरी तथा जांच का कार्य एजेंसी के द्वारा करवाने का विचार रखती है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी पूर्ण ब्यौरा क्या है?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री संतोष कुमार गंगवार): (क) और (ख) हिमाचल प्रदेश के कांगड़ा जिले में 16 एल पी जी डिस्ट्रीब्यूटरशिपें

प्रचालनरत हैं, जो लगभग 500 पंचायतों को एल पी जी उपलब्ध करा रही है। यह रिपोर्ट दी गई है कि प्रत्येक पंचायत में 5-10 गांव होते हैं । इनमें से प्रत्येक गांव को लगभग 150 एल पी जी कनेक्शन प्रदान किए गए हैं।

(ग) और (घ) ऐसे सभी गांवों को शत-प्रतिशत सुपुर्दगी पूर्व जांचों के साथ एल पी जी सिलेंडरों की घर में सुपुर्दगी की जाती है जहां मोटर वाहन के जाने योग्य मार्ग है। जहां मोटर वाहन के जाने योग्य मार्ग नहीं है वहां सिलेंण्डरों की सुपुर्दगी, संबंधित गांवों के समीप सबसे सुविधाजनक स्थल पर स्थानीय प्रशासन द्वारा नियत पूर्व-निर्धारित सुपुर्दगी स्थल पर की जाती है।

Selling price of solvent and Naphtha

4086. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the selling price of Naphtha and Solvent in the country and the import duty and excise duty on these products, company-wise;

(b) whether Government have increased the selling price and excise duty on these products;

(c) if so, whether the import duties on the Naphtha and Solvent have also been increased;

(d) if not, whether this step would not give undue benefit to the private refineries/ distillation units of Naphtha; and

(e) the corrective steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) (i) The basic selling price exclusive of excise duty etc. of naphtha and solvent currently charged by the oil marketing PSU companies is as under:

Rs./SU

	Unit	IOC	BPC	HPC	IBP
Naphtha for solvent manufacturers	MT	16280	16280	16280	16280
Naphtha for others	MT	7072	7072	7072	7072
Solvent	KL	17000	17000	17000	—

(ii) The import duty and excise duty rates on naphtha and solvent are as under:

Import Duties

Naphtha Fertiliser — Nil

Naphtha General Uses— 4% + CVD 15%

Solvent — Basic Customs Duty 30%+Special Customs Duty 2% + Additional Customs Duty 4% + CVD 32%

Excise Duties

Naphtha Fertiliser	Nil
Naphtha General Uses	15%
Solvent	32%

(b) The selling prices of Naphtha and Solvent are decontrolled and are fixed by Oil Companies on Market considerations. While there has been no change in excise duty on Naphtha, the excise duty on solvent has increased from 20% to 32% in the Union Budget 1998.

(c) In the Union Budget 1998 special additional duty of customs at the rate of 4% has been levied on Naphtha (general uses) and Solvent.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Oil refinery at Bhatinda

4087. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI YERRA NARAYANA-SWAMY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal to set up a Rs. 12000 crore oil refinery at Bhatinda by the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited has since been approved;